

\$1 million in scholarships

Talisman Energy offers financial assistance to engineering students.

2

Digital dragnet

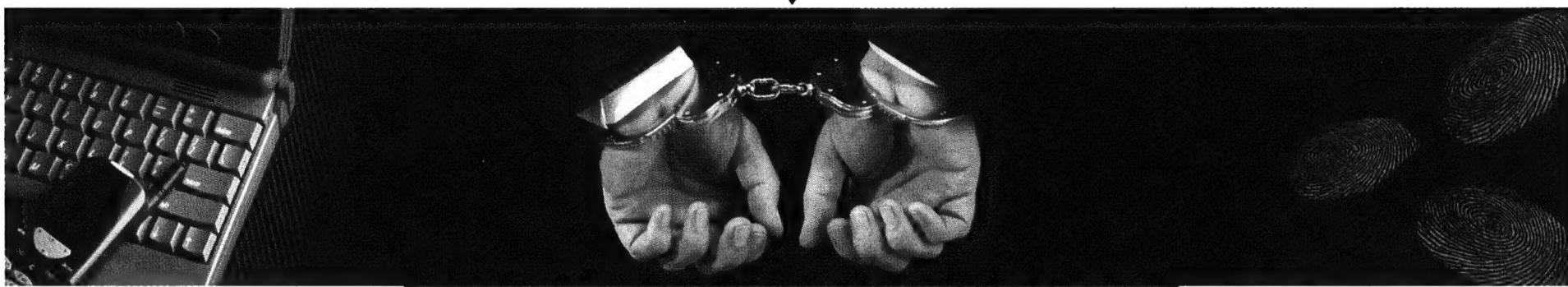
Software being introduced to Canadian police departments will help nab child pornographers. But the involvement of the private sector raises some interesting ethical questions about policing.

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Mastering the Masters

The U of A challenges its own to make the World Masters Games memorable.

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

folio

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<http://www.ualberta.ca/folio>

Study shows city's poor have greater access to fast food

And that likely means higher rates of obesity

By Richard Cairney

A new study shows that poor people in Edmonton have a dramatically greater access to fast food than well-off families.

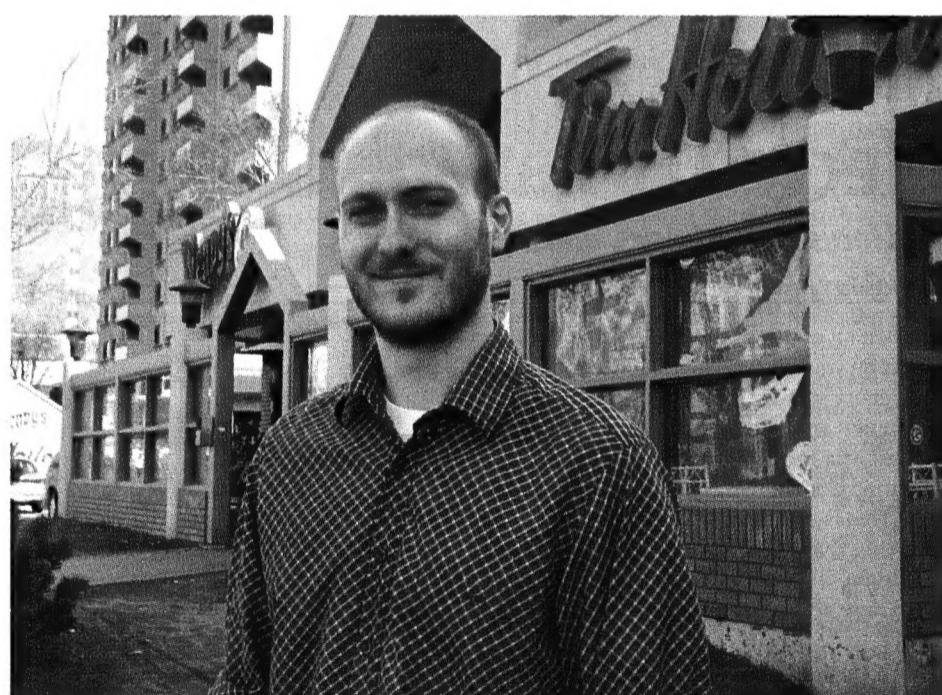
Fast food outlets in Edmonton are more often situated in neighbourhoods where there's high unemployment, low education rates and more renters than home owners. And the study's author says it's likely that obesity rates in those neighbourhoods are higher than average as well.

Eric Hemphill, who has just earned his Masters of Science in health promotion, says people living in the city's 45 poorest neighbourhoods are exposed to 2.7 times more fast food outlets than those living in the wealthiest 45 neighbourhoods.

Hemphill looked at availability of fast food at 762 outlets in 204 residential neighbourhoods, and examined five demographic variables in those neighbourhoods: the percentage of neighbourhood residents with low education and income, those who were unemployed, new Canadians, and those who rented rather than owned their homes.

He found a clear connection between concentration of fast food outlets and neighbourhoods where there are more low-income earners, lower education levels and a greater number of renters than home owners.

"Those variables are very good predictors of whether or not a neighbourhood will have high access to fast food," he said.



Eric Hemphill's research shows socioeconomic status indicates whether a neighbourhood will have greater or less access to fast food.

The highest concentration of fast food access appears to be in the downtown core, with 94 outlets; and residents of the west downtown neighbourhood of Oliver have access to 156 outlets, including those downtown. Some neighbourhoods, he noted, have no fast food outlets, particularly Riverbend, an upscale community on the city's southwest end.

"There are about 2.7 times as many

fast food outlets in the poorer parts of the city, which is actually more significant than the findings in Australia," said Hemphill. "It surprised me."

Previous research has shown that low-income families are more prone to obesity, and access to fast food has been fingered as a culprit in American and Australian studies.

Data on obesity in Canada is scant, but

it is known that obesity rates have nearly tripled between 1985 and 2003, rising to 14.9 per cent in 2003 from 5.6 per cent in 1985. And it is also known that the direct and indirect costs of obesity in Canada, including both health care costs and costs of lost production, are a staggering \$4.3 billion per year.

"It's a major issue," said Hemphill, who used city planning documents, data from the 2001 federal census and figures from the Capital Health Region to find out if there is a link between obesity, socio-economic status and fast food access in Edmonton.

While his present study offers tantalizing results, Hemphill stressed that more detailed research is required to make a direct connection between obesity rates and the availability of fast food here.

"Basically this is an exploratory, descriptive analysis of where fast food outlets are and if there is a relationship between placement and demographic variables," he said.

"We don't really know if living in a high-access area makes any difference but we now have a good idea of what the food-scape looks like in these areas," he said.

Funding for the study came from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada through the U of A Centre for Health Promotion Studies' Promotion of Optimal Weights through Ecological Research (POWER) Project. ■

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WORLD MASTERS GAMES EDMONTON CANADA 05

Talisman donates \$1 million for students

University will match funds for engineering students

By Caitlin Crawshaw

Citing the need for more Alberta engineers as the energy sector evolves, the CEO of Talisman Energy announced today that the oil and gas company will give \$1 million to University of Alberta engineering students over the next decade.

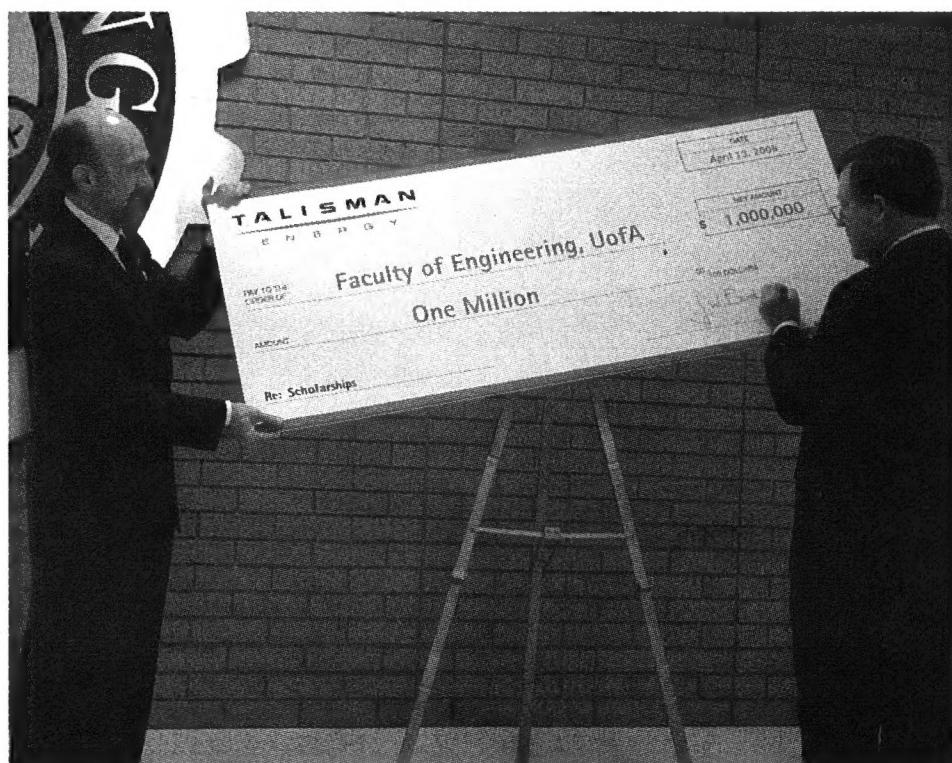
The joint initiative between the U of A and Talisman will create the Talisman Engineering Academic Excellence Scholarships and the Talisman Engineering Scholarships. Each of the scholarships, one for first-year students and the other for those in their second year, will award 20 students \$2,500 each. The U of A will match these funds to provide students with scholarship money approximating the cost of tuition.

"The supply of cheap energy, which is the basis of our society, is reaching a crisis point," explained Talisman CEO, Dr. Jim Buckee. "The energy industry needs more qualified engineers."

According to Buckee, as the world population continues to grow and global ener-

"I believe that by investing in students directly, through the funding of scholarships, Talisman is encouraging the development of our future workforce."

— Dr. Jim Buckee



Talisman CEO Dr. Jim Buckee signs a cheque for \$1 million. Scholarships set up by the firm will give \$2,500 to 40 engineering students each year.

gy needs increase, the world will continue to look to oil and gas to meet the need.

"Current consumption of oil is running at about 30 billion barrels of oil per year, and we're replacing six to seven of those. This is untenable and unstable," he said.

"Significant new oil and gas discoveries are often made in remote, challenging areas, in deep waters or far from markets. Finding new fields and bringing them onto production quickly and economically continues to be a challenge. The industry needs bright engineers."

Buckee also noted that the oil price collapse of the mid-80s led to a decline

in engineering enrolment in universities, and a sharp drop in engineer recruitment by energy companies. As a result, a large majority of workers in oil and gas employees are between 45 and 57 years of age.

"This generation gap will not only create challenges for the industry, but also great opportunities for new entrants, as within the next five to 10 years, significant numbers of our workforce will retire," he said.

"I believe that by investing in students directly, through the funding of scholarships, Talisman is encouraging the development of our future workforce."

According to U of A Chancellor Eric

"Our economy in Alberta is driven by the energy sector, we're firing on all cylinders, but we're only going to keep doing that if we keep ahead of the game and keep Alberta's position as the energy leader of the future."

— Eric Newell

Newell, supporting the energy sector is critical for the livelihood of the province as a whole.

"Our economy in Alberta is driven by the energy sector, we're firing on all cylinders, but we're only going to keep doing that if we keep ahead of the game and keep Alberta's position as the energy leader of the future," said Newell.

Engineering Dean Dr. David Lynch added that the injection of cash will help the faculty retain talented engineers.

"This focus on recruiting and retaining top students in Alberta and internationally is right at the heart of the strategies of the Faculty of Engineering, and so this special announcement today will enable us to build on that even more."

But for fourth-year mechanical engineering student Candice Heron, the scholarship fund primarily offers hard-working engineering students needed support.

"I know many students really question whether engineering is really right for them as they go through their degree," she said. "The pressure to perform well is very heavy."

"It's not so much the scholarship, but the fact that there's someone out there in the community that you hope to work for one day that says, 'You're doing a great job,' and they're really cheering you on and providing that support." ■

folio

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Mahon reappointed as dean, elected to Canadian Olympic Committee

Will focus on the basics, and new initiatives

By Richard Cairney

It's been a great week for Dr. Mike Mahon. First he was re-appointed as dean of the University of Alberta's Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation. Then he was elected as a member of the Canadian Olympic Committee.

"This is a university with a strong focus on being dynamic and innovative and making a difference, which makes being a dean here a very positive thing," Mahon said.

Mahon said his goals as dean are "first and foremost to continue to strengthen our academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as our research – these are the things this university is built on and we will continue to excel at."

Mahon added that the faculty is recruiting a new director of athletics and has new capital projects in the works.

And with the university in the midst of the \$310-million Campaign 2008, its most ambitious fund development campaign to date, Mahon says helping connect donors with the faculty also takes a high priority. The faculty's priorities include a new physical activity centre and hockey arena, and an anonymous \$5-million gift has given the project a very promising start, he added.

"Fund development is pretty important these days. We are in a campaign and I see that as a priority."

As for his election to the COC, Mahon said the posting is an honour.

"The COC is the most significant sport body in Canada and with us hosting the Olympics in 2010, any time a country hosts



Dr. Mike Mahon

the Olympics there is more attention placed upon your Olympic committee," he said.

Mahon said that when he was asked if he would accept a nomination for the position, he had to give it some thought. On one hand, he's dean of a faculty that is known for its leading teaching, research and athletics programs, but on the other, sitting on the COC would allow him to influence Canada's fortunes as well as the university's.

"One of the things you do as dean is to try to put a face of the university within the community in a context that makes sense, given our roles. Our faculty has had a long commitment to sports and high per-

formance sports," Mahon said.

"There needs to be a stronger connection between university sport and the high-performance sport community – it isn't as strong a connection as there could be, so when I was asked to stand for election I thought this is one way we could begin to look for ways that things can be done a little differently," he said.

While athletes from universities feed into the high-performance sport, university coaches also play a pivotal role in the development of Olympic athletes.

As an example, Mahon said, Bears volleyball coach Terry Danyluk has run the junior national training program for the Canadian Volleyball Association and there have been a number of U of A coaches involved at the national and international levels.

"There is an obvious connection there but the universities have not been as connected as they should be," he said. "It is a challenge for all of Canada." ■

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Arming police with high-tech tools

Microsoft lends a hand in the battle against online child abuse, but is it their job?

By Lee Craig

A new software program called the Child Exploitation Tracking System (CETS), developed by Microsoft Canada and the Toronto Police Service, has been launched in Canada to help trap child pornography. It will soon be put to use in cities across Canada to assist police in the high-speed technological chase that the crime of Internet child pornography has become.

While CETS is being lauded as hugely significant to Canadian police agencies that are often under funded and outflanked in the kinds of technology available to them, its development raises questions about both civil liberties and the role of corporations in government agencies.

Julian Sher, an investigative journalist and author based in Montreal, explains that the selling and distribution of child pornography has exploded on the Internet in the last 10 years, overwhelming police detectives with hundreds of thousands of heartbreaking images of infants and very young children being abused.

"When police arrest a drug pusher, that's it. They arrest the guy. If they can see some of the drugs on him, fine. If not, but they know he's done it in the past, that's it, the case is over, he goes to jail or not." When it comes to Internet child porn, said Sher, finding, arresting, and convicting the person with the pictures is only the beginning. The police now have "hundreds of thousands of pictures, and they have to go and see if any of those kids need rescuing."

Sher, who is working on a book about child pornography, said local police agencies are often at a disadvantage when it comes to the cutting-edge technology that pedophiles use to avoid being caught and to distribute the images.

"The problem with Internet pornography is that it's possible that it's going to be some individuals in Edmonton who might be downloading it and then also might be selling it, but they're doing it in such an encrypted way and through so many firewalls and messes of protection that it's hard for the Edmonton police, for example, to find out who in Edmonton is buying the stuff or selling the stuff."

Sher added that with many other crimes, such as drug trafficking, theft, or prostitution, city police know who the main perpetrators are. But the people making child porn are harder to catch because these criminal activities can be conducted from people's private homes, over their private computers, and because the images are distributed globally.

CETS began with an e-mail written in 2003 by a frustrated Det. Sgt. Paul Gillespie, head of the child exploitation team of Toronto's Sex Crimes Unit. Gillespie e-mailed Bill Gates, CEO of Microsoft. Gillespie wanted to know what Gates could offer his department in the way of technology to track the estimated 50,000 images of abused children posted each month in newsgroups on the Internet.

Gates responded by asking Frank Clegg, then-president of Microsoft Canada, to work with Gillespie's team on an innovative database program that would store and retrieve arrest records, aliases of online predators, credit card information, and intelligence reports – in short, millions of pieces of data. The original "alpha" version of the database was reviewed by police detectives from across Canada and from agencies such as Interpol, Scotland Yard, and some U.S. agencies. The new "beta"



Police have been ill-equipped to fight online child abuse, but a new program developed by Microsoft will give law-enforcement agencies the tools to track down criminals.

"The problem with Internet pornography is that it's possible that it's going to be some individuals in Edmonton who might be downloading it and then also might be selling it, but they're doing it in such an encrypted way and through so many firewalls and messes of protection that it's hard for the Edmonton police, for example, to find out who in Edmonton is buying the stuff or selling the stuff."

– Julian Sher

version will now be used by the RCMP in Ottawa and some municipal and provincial police agencies.

"They are hoping to eventually have every major police force in Canada feeding in arrest records...sometimes even their intelligence, which is not just arrest information, into the central database," said Sher. The database, he added "can make connections with rather obscure, hidden data that could come from countries around the world."

He pointed out that CETS has already helped find one five-year-old girl from a case that began in New Jersey, had a connection in the United Kingdom, and ended in the Toronto area.

Dr. Harvey Quamen, a professor of English at the U of A and a teacher of computing science, admires both the Toronto Police Department and Microsoft's collaboration over CETS and that Gates obviously

took Gillespie's e-mail seriously, to the total of \$4.5 million in donated software.

"I can imagine the constraints the police are under, in terms of staffing and technology, and they don't have the time to keep up with the technology...we have to applaud Microsoft because they are stepping up to the plate, and they are helping an organization and a group that is under funded and under staffed," said Quamen.

However, Quamen said that these types of ventures shouldn't be an excuse that lets governments off the hook when it comes to fully funding police forces. "I don't think the message should be that we can under fund and under staff and everything will be fine in the end."

Quamen also cautions that it is not inconceivable that privately funded companies could take on government roles in the future.

"Would it be possible, for example, for the Toronto police services to say OK, we are going to job out 70 per cent of our child abuse tracking to Microsoft? We are going to pay Microsoft a little money, and they are going to fund the whole thing and might make money from restitution fees?" said Quamen, adding that the whole idea of what crime is and who a criminal is then becomes something partially defined by a corporation.

And while corporations are not political entities, they do have political interests, Quamen said. How would a company with more liberal tendencies police one area, or vice versa, with a more conservative-minded company? asked Quamen. Who would be accountable to the public?

Identity theft is one other possible problem with software such as CETS, said Quamen. Credit card numbers can be stolen and used in buying child pornography, he said, and then a person who is the victim of one crime becomes a suspect in another. There must be ways to correctly identify theft and simple human errors in the database, he said, as well as to ensure that civil liberties are not trampled.

Deductions about what type of person someone is can be made from that individual's web history, said Quamen. "Anyone can be at a website not as a customer, but as a researcher. That difference seems important," he said.

Sher, who has had access to CETS during the research for his book, which will be published in 2007, agreed that human error could introduce mistakes into the system. Overall, however, it is a valuable weapon for Canadian police agencies and eventually, international police agencies, he said. He added there is a lot of public education about child pornography that needs to be done.

"These are not consenting adults...this is abuse of children. The very notion of 'child pornography' is actually wrong. Somehow it associates it with adult pornography, which is not illegal. The second thing is that even the very notion of 'child' is wrong... it is much better to call it 'infant pornography.'" Sher said, pointing out that many police departments now refer to it as "online child abuse."

"We're talking about infants, and we are talking about vicious physical abuse." ■

Sessional instructor earns large-class teaching award

Personal touch is the key to success

By Scott Lingley

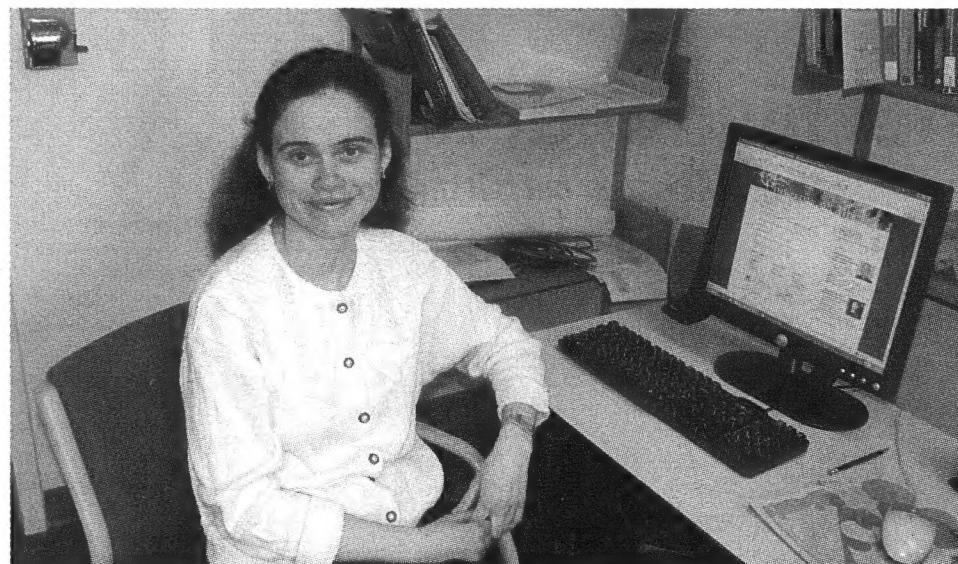
Dr. Marina Blekher says she felt honoured when she received a letter from the Faculty of Arts informing her that she would be the first recipient of the Kathleen W. Klawa Prize for Excellence in Teaching Large Classes. But it was a note of congratulations from one of her own inspirational teachers that brought home the meaning of the accomplishment to the assistant professor of linguistics.

Dr. Lois Stanford, professor emerita and former chair of the University of Alberta's linguistics department, sent Blekher an e-mail that read, "Kathleen (Klawa) was a friend from my early years at the U of A, and I know first-hand that she was a superb teacher. She often taught the beginning economics course in the Tory Turtle to about 400 students, and they thought she – and economics – were wonderful. You are carrying on a fine tradition."

"It was very nice to hear this from her," Blekher said. "It added a personal touch to (the award)."

Adding a personal touch has been an important part of how Blekher approaches teaching a large class. Since she started teaching as a PhD student at the U of A in the mid-1990s, Blekher has become accustomed to delivering introductory linguistics curricula to classrooms of 100 or more students. She says it's a departure from her own experience as an undergraduate student in Russia, which makes it easy to empathize with her charges.

"Students who come fresh from high school or from smaller colleges sometimes feel lost in those large classes and sometimes it can feel very impersonal, so I think the challenge is to make these large classes



Dr. Marina Blekher is the university's first recipient of the Kathleen W. Klawa Prize for Excellence in Teaching Large Classes. Blekher says she tries to minimize the 'I talk you listen' approach to teaching.

a more comfortable and conducive learning environment – to make it more personal to some degree, to try to give more attention to students. Finding ways to do this is a major challenge."

It's apparently a challenge to which Blekher is equal. The letter of award from the Arts Teaching Awards Committee cited effective use of technologically enhanced teaching methods, mentorship of graduate student teaching assistants, contributions to publications in support of teaching, and evidence of the high degree to which undergraduates value her teaching as criteria for the award.

Blekher tries to break from the traditional notions of a large-class lecture and give her students a chance to participate.

"I see the traditional approach as the instructor standing in front of the class and just lecturing, and the students just consuming knowledge. I try to minimize that – it's not completely possible to get rid of it in a class that size – but I try to introduce interactivity. I try to ask students questions, I try to do interactive problems together and pose different discussion questions, I try to pause during lectures and make sure the students understand before I proceed with the lecture. And I try to learn my students' names, which is not always possible – I do my best."

The Katherine W. Klawa Prize was established in 2004 with a \$20,000 gift from Dr. Maria Klawa, a U of A alumna who served as the Dean of Science at the

University of British Columbia and is now Dean of Engineering at Princeton University. The award was created in honour of her mother, an economics professor at the U of A in the 1960s and 1970s, and endows a \$1,000 award in alternating years in the Arts and Science faculties.

"As Dean of Science at UBC I was involved in the selection of the winners of teaching awards," said Maria. "I noticed that even when people teaching very large classes got wonderful teaching evaluations, they were seldom nominated for the teaching awards. This seemed unfortunate to me as it's much more challenging to do a great job of teaching 200 students than 30 to 50 students."

"Because my mother taught classes of 400 students and was amazingly successful at it, I thought it would be nice to establish an award in her name. I asked her about it, and she was thrilled. Unfortunately she died about a year later, so she didn't get to see the award established, but she knew I was planning on doing it."

The award is open to all full-time faculty, sessional instructors, graduate students, post-docs and professors emeriti, and Blekher says she was surprised to receive it, given the number of deserving candidates on campus. She notes that it was an inspirational teacher in Russia who got her interested in linguistics as an undergraduate student, and she hopes to pass along that enthusiasm for her discipline in the classroom, even if it's the only linguistics course some of her students ever take.

"I hope that to some of the students I have been able to show language is intrinsically beautiful and how the study of language is interesting," Blekher said. ■

Prestigious award funds health promotion among breast cancer survivors

Research aimed at helping survivors incorporate fitness into everyday lives

By Richard Cairney

A University of Alberta PhD student in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation has been awarded a prestigious new doctoral award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Jeff Vallance has received the Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral Award to support his research promoting exercise and fitness among breast cancer survivors.

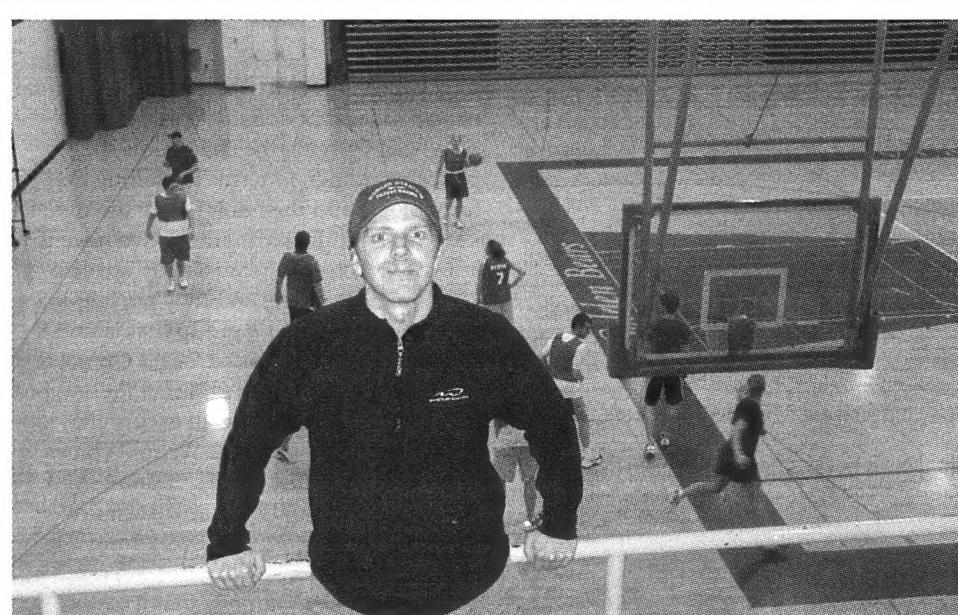
Vallance will receive \$30,000 a year and \$5,000 a year as a research allowance. He hopes to complete his doctorate next June. Vallance is developing printed material that will help breast cancer survivors improve their exercise behaviour and their fitness levels once their treatments have ended.

"We have seen a lot of research that shows exercise both during and after treatments is very beneficial to these women," said Vallance. "I thought I could fill a niche by coming into the health promotion side of things and work to promote exercise in this population."

Breast cancer survivors are at increased risk of experiencing secondary cancers, cardiovascular disease, weight gain, osteoporosis and diabetes, he said, and it is well-known that exercise and fitness can prevent the onset of these diseases and even help manage them.

"I thought it would be good to look for ways that help survivors adopt and continue to exercise once they move into their survivorship," he said.

The question is one of motivating the women to return to the levels of exercise they'd practiced before their cancer treatments. It doesn't hurt that the survivors are more motivated than the roughly 70 per cent of the population that doesn't get enough exercise to experience the health benefits.



Jeff Vallance has been awarded the Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral Award. He's researching ways to promote exercise and fitness among breast cancer survivors.

Most people go to a gym or get involved in exercise to lose weight and look good, but cancer patients, in this case, are exercising to stay alive and return to their normal lifestyle.

"Some researchers have postulated that a cancer diagnosis can function as a 'teachable moment' when people are more receptive to receiving information that pertains to their health," he said. "We have these people at a point in time when they might be more receptive and my study is to see if that is an appropriate and effective time to intervene and encourage healthier exercise behaviour."

Vallance's study uses pedometers to measure the activity levels among breast cancer survivors, and provides them with

an instructional exercise guidebook on being more active.

"It's a guidebook that tells survivors all about the benefits the barriers they might face, and we give them strategies to overcome those barriers and to facilitate their exercise behaviour," he said, adding that he knows of no other guide of its kind specifically for breast cancer survivors.

"It is not a quick and dirty four-or-five-page brochure that says 'go exercise, it's good for you.' We know that does not work. Instead, it is comprehensive and interactive. It requires participants to write down their exercise goals and to think about strategies they can use to meet those goals, so it's not just giving something to someone and asking them to read it – it asks and encourages

them to engage in the guidebook."

The guidebook avoids clumsy attempts to convince people who may never have set foot inside a fitness centre to become weight lifters – instead, it offers practical suggestions that are easy to fit into a busy daily schedule.

"We aren't promoting going to the gym and doing weights. We promote activities like taking the stairs instead of the elevator, or getting off the bus one or two stops early and walking the rest of the way. There is even information pertaining to the latest advice that top oncologists across Canada are recommending. We also give survivors the latest scientific evidence for exercising after breast cancer treatment in a reader-friendly format that the average reader can understand. The bottom line is that we are providing these individuals with practical ways of getting the prescribed exercise and solutions to overcome those barriers that we all face when we attempt to start and/or maintain exercise."

Vallance said receiving the award is an honour, and credits his supervisor, Dr. Kerry Courneya, for helping secure the award.

"A lot of these awards rely heavily on your supervisor and your supervisor's research record. Kerry is the world leader in the area of exercise and cancer," said Vallance. "The infrastructure he has set up here sets his grad students up for these types of awards. We are in a setting where we literally have the world leader right at our shoulder, so that puts us ahead of a lot of other students. We wouldn't be able to ask the types of questions and propose the types of projects that we do without his research, support, and guidance. It's a real treat to be on the front lines of research with Kerry." ■

Are ugly kids less loved?

Study suggests they are; parents deny findings

By Tom Murray

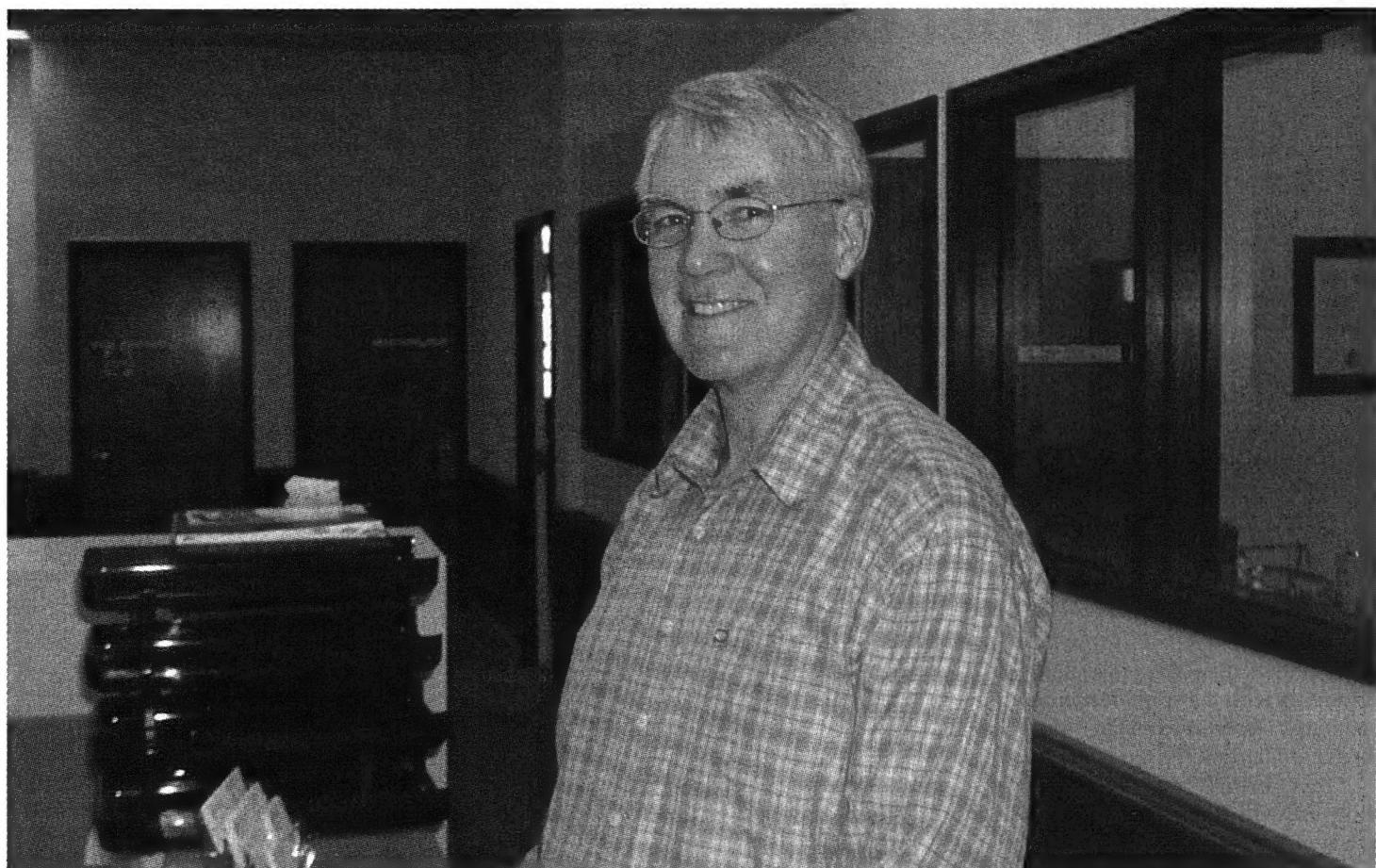
A recent observational study on children and shopping cart safety by the University of Alberta's Dr. Andrew Harrell has caused a minor uproar in the Canadian media. His findings, which can be boiled down to the notion that good-looking children are more likely to be better attended to by their parents than "unattractive" kids are, has provoked articles in *Macleans Magazine*, the *Edmonton Journal*, and CTV. Responses from parents interviewed about Harrell's findings have ranged from discomfort to denial.

"I've gotten a few e-mails about it," Harrell said. "People are sensitive about this issue of attractiveness."

Harrell, the executive director of the Population Research Laboratory in the Department of Sociology, has been researching shopping cart safety since 1990, publishing a total of 13 articles on the topic. Earlier articles, concerning the configuration of shopping carts, length of the shopping trip and the age of the child were innocuous enough to escape widespread notice, but the unpleasant notion that we favour cute children over homely ones has triggered the minor uproar.

"Most people are upset that attractiveness would even be a factor – they certainly don't think it is. If you give them a questionnaire, they'll say, 'No, I love all my kids, and I don't discriminate on the basis of attractiveness.' The whole point of our research is that people do."

Harrell's team of observers followed parents and their two to five-year-old children around the grocery store for 10 minutes each, noting if the child was buckled into the grocery-cart seat, and how often the child wandered more than 10 feet away. Findings showed that 1.2 per cent of the least attractive children were buckled in, compared with 13.3 per cent of the most attractive youngsters. The observers also made judgments as to age, gender and attractiveness. A second set of observers documented the adequacy of the parenting and use of seatbelts, among other things. In total,



Dr. Andrew Harrell's research into shopping cart safety uncovered surprising findings: parents of ugly children pay less attention to their safety.

"Attractiveness as a big predictor of behaviour, especially parenting behaviour, has been around a long time. When I was a grad student in the late 1960s, people were doing research on it, finding it an important factor in everyday life, in how we treat others. It's pretty ancient literature, in terms of the longevity of the field."

— Dr. Andrew Harrell

there were 426 observations at 14 local supermarkets.

Harrell figures that it's a Darwinian

response: we're unconsciously more likely to lavish attention on attractive children simply because they're our best genetic material. This shouldn't come as too much of a shock – other studies, such as a 1995 report by psychologists at the University of Texas, verify Harrell's findings.

"Attractiveness as a big predictor of behaviour, especially parenting behaviour, has been around a long time," Harrell said. "When I was a grad student in the late 1960s, people were doing research on it, finding it an important factor in everyday life, in how we treat others. It's pretty ancient literature, in terms of the longevity of the field. My advisor in graduate school has gone on to do a fair amount of work in child abuse, and he's been talking about

these factors for decades now."

It's not as though Harrell is pleased with his own findings. The 60-year-old has five children of his own and is grandfather to three. The idea that one child would be given precedence over another based on looks is repugnant to him, but the facts are tough to get around, and more so to swallow, even in the scientific community.

"Our original data was collected back in the '90s, and the research that the *Macleans*' article was based on was completed in 2003. I've been massaging it and re-analyzing it just to make it palatable to a journal. We have three studies dealing with the same topic, but I know they're not politically correct, and you need a brave journal to publish them." ■

Uncovering the cost of caring

Dr. Janet Fast finds out who pays in family caregiving

By Phoebe Dey

It was during a plane ride conversation that Dr. Janet Fast first became interested in the unpaid work of family and friend care – an area of research that has brought the Killam Annual Professorship recipient national recognition and has spurred policy changes across the country.

Fast, a family economist with the University of Alberta's Department of Human Ecology, always had an interest in public policy and its potential to affect people's lives, but it was a flight home from a conference that led her to her current research program. Her colleague, gerontologist Dr. Norah Keating, was telling Fast about her observance of policy reform in the health and continuing care sectors that was shifting responsibility for care from formal or paid caregivers in residential and home-care settings to unpaid family and friend caregivers because it was considered cheaper.

"As a family economist I don't take for granted that work done by an unpaid carer is free or costless simply because it is unpaid or that the overall cost of care is going to be less, simply because it is reallocated among the players," said Fast. "So my response to her was, 'cheaper for whom?' Our collaboration and our current research program took root that day with those three little words as we began exploring



Dr. Janet Fast

ring this question, 'cheaper for whom?'

Fast says her policy analysis work made her aware that many, especially policymakers and employers, are insensitive to the value of unpaid work and are therefore unable to deal with it in a policy context. "I thought I had the wherewithal to make a

contribution on that score," she said.

She was right. Today, Fast holds grants totaling approximately \$3 million and co-leads with Keating the Research on Aging Policies and Practice (RAPP) research team, a group that includes about 20 researchers and students from varied disciplines, as well as community partners in 15 cities, across six countries and on three continents.

Her work has also led to a long-standing partnership with Statistics Canada in which she receives extensive support and reciprocates with advice and mentorship. She is often sought out to participate in federal policy consultation processes and her team can take some credit for effecting policy change with respect to unpaid family and friend care. Their most recent research has contributed to changes in eligibility for care benefits for widows of veterans, and has also led to such policy reforms as the Caregiver Tax Credit and the Compassionate Family Leave program.

Fast is recognized not only for her research, but also for bringing her passion to the classroom.

"Dr. Fast integrates her wealth of knowledge and her research findings into the courses she teaches in family and consumer issues and policy," said Dr. Linda Capjack, chair of Human Ecology. "Janet actually excites students about theory and

policy issues that affect families, which can be a dry subject area."

"I have heard students say that they want to have a career in policy and advocating for change after taking Janet's courses. She is also a wonderful mentor to her many graduate students at the masters and PhD levels."

The personal stories of caregivers continue to propel Fast's enthusiasm. "The men and women who have made huge sacrifices giving up their paying jobs and career aspirations, suffered injury, illness, social isolation and poverty as a result of their caregiving confirm and put a face on what the data are telling me," said Fast. "And the small, incremental changes we see in the policy area...also confirm that our work is having some influence and is making things marginally better for caregivers."

As for being awarded one of eight Killam Annual Professorships this year, Fast appreciates the value her colleagues place on all facets of her work – the research, teaching and outreach. But she also sees the award as a nod to the outstanding team she has assembled on campus and around the world. "They're all – colleagues, students, policy and practice partners alike – delightful to work with and really do make the whole greater than the sum of its parts." ■

The world's our playing field

University challenges faculty, staff and students to sign up for World Masters Games

By Tom Murray

The last week of July will be an exciting time for amateur athletes on campus. The World Masters Games, set to take over the city and particularly parts of the University of Alberta campus July 22 - 31, will be an opportunity for sports enthusiasts to celebrate the Games' philosophy of 'Sports For Life' approaching competition as a way to achieve personal bests at any age.

Along with many Edmontonians and athletes from around the world, university students, faculty and staff will be taking part in the 27 events, which range from team sports like hockey and soccer to squash, weightlifting, race walking and canoe polo. For Phyllis Clark, vice-president (finance and administration), her participation in ladies' doubles tennis is more in keeping with the spirit of friendly competition as opposed to an attempt to unseat Serena Williams at the top of the rankings.

"Don't I wish," she laughs. "I only really started playing after I left university as a student."

Truly, for Clark, the Masters will be an opportunity to attempt to play at the top of her game, and, more importantly, to stick to a philosophy she and the U of A have in common.

"We're really putting a lot of emphasis on health and wellness this year," she said. "We've had a task force, a committee in response to the city task force on wellness. The Masters Games dovetail nicely with what we're trying to do at the university, which is getting employees and students to be more active in their own lifestyles. So this is also a test of our own activity levels."

The university has taken note of the physical health of students faculty and staff since the Senate Task Force on Wellness in 2003 suggested actively encouraging students to follow a healthier lifestyle. One of the results of the report was the second annual Wellness Week, which took place during the middle of March. The week



Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark will take to the tennis court this summer as a participant in the World Masters Games. The university is challenging students, faculty and staff to hit the 1,000 mark in volunteering for or participating in the Masters. For information on participating in the Masters as an athlete or volunteer, visit: www.2005worldmasters.com/.

saw a number of activities staged for participants, including walks around campus, Ultimate Frisbee games, dance workshops and classes on eating healthy. The event was a successful attempt at encouraging a

healthy lifestyle, but it's just the tip of the iceberg.

"There have been a number of wellness initiatives at the university for the summer, and the Masters Games works nicely with

all of that."

For Mary Paul, executive assistant in the Office of the Vice-President (Facilities and Operations), the Masters also represents an opportunity for the university to encourage participation on other levels as well.

"The university is a champion of the games that we're promoting, particularly as part of the Alberta Centennial celebrations," she said. "We're very happy to be a strategic partner in this venture. We like to be involved in as many ways as we can, and not only by providing venues."

That being said, the U of A, as an official 'Games Champion', is providing organizers and athletes with many venues, including Foote Field, the Van Vliet Physical Education Centre, and the Saville Sport Centre, where Clark will be playing her doubles games.

Student residences are open for out-of-town athletes and officials.

"We have also issued a challenge," said Paul. "The games require 5,000 volunteers, and we have said that it would be lovely if the university would be able to come forward with a 1,000 participants, whether in the sporting side or on the volunteer side. This is the challenge that we're issuing to the campus."

Considering the strong tradition of volunteerism and participation on campus, the challenge will no doubt be taken up, as it has been by Clark and other staff. Whatever may occur for Clark during her competition, the Masters will be a good time and a fond memory.

"It's really for the fellowship, and the companionship of playing with a good partner. Of course, it's also about having a good time," she said. "I'm pretty aware of my limitations on the tennis court."

For information on participating in the Masters as an athlete or volunteer, visit: www.2005worldmasters.com/. ■

Grandfather donates \$1 million for diabetes research

Family wants to help find a cure

By Michael Robb

Life changed dramatically for the Hamilton-Lane family when nine-year-old Margaret was diagnosed four years ago with type 1 diabetes. Their lives are now tightly scripted. Margaret's food is precisely measured. Her mother, Lynn, now accompanies her daughter on school field trips. Juice and glucose tablets are always at the ready. Lynn is on the bench at her daughter's soccer games in case Margaret's blood sugars plummet.

But the family has done much more than learn about the disease and how to manage it. Margaret's father, Paul Lane, began training to run his first-ever marathon in order to raise money for diabetes research through Team Diabetes, a fund-raising initiative of the Canadian Diabetes Association. He has since completed both the Iceland and Rome marathons and has become involved with the Canadian Diabetes Association to promote advocacy for people with both types of diabetes.

And now, Margaret's grandfather, Don Hamilton, has donated \$1 million to support the construction of the new Health Research Innovation Facility, where U of A diabetes researchers will be consoli-

dated under one roof. Once the building is opened, the university's newly created Alberta Diabetes Institute will be housed within the HRIF East.

Don's first reaction to his five-year old granddaughter's diagnosis was one of immense sadness. He saw the condition for what it was – a life-threatening disease without a cure. He worried about the complications his granddaughter could develop: blindness, kidney disease, heart disease and amputation. He knew Margaret's life would also likely be shorter as a result of the disease. Don watched Margaret endure the three needles and five or more finger tests a day. He saw how she could only eat certain foods at certain times of the day – a real struggle for a busy little girl growing up. He resolved to find out how he could help to find a cure for diabetes so Margaret and other children like her could lead a normal life. Not surprisingly, given the reputation and high profile of the local diabetes researchers, he turned to the U of A.

A co-investor in the Edmonton Oilers who donated funding for a wing at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in memory of his late wife, Gene, Don visited the laboratory

of diabetes researcher Dr. Greg Korbett.

Korbett, a professor in the Surgical-Medical Research Institute and the Department of Surgery, was an integral player in the team that announced in June 2000 the successful transplantation of islet cells into type 1 diabetics.

Hamilton was impressed with what was going on in the lab – so much so, in fact, that he made a commitment to donate \$1 million.

Asked whether Margaret's condition causes the family to be sad or angry, Lynn says emphatically, no. "We work very hard to make sure she is not left out of any activities as a result of being diabetic." Certain activities such as sleepovers, however, are rare and birthday parties require considerable pre-planning. Nevertheless, Margaret's positive attitude toward the disease has been an inspiration to her family and circle of friends. "She even gets a little celebrity status from the other kids at school," Lynn says. And when she recently visited the Surgical-Medical Research Institute, director Dr. Ray Rajotte presented her with a trophy for taking good care of her diabetes. Margaret trea-

sures the recognition.

The family had other connections to U of A research. Margaret was enrolled in a recent research study conducted by Medical Microbiology and Immunology professor Dr. John Elliott and another study conducted by Dr. Rose Girgis, a pediatric endocrinologist in the Department of Pediatrics. The family came away from those experiences heartened, believing that if you had diabetes, the best place to have it was in Edmonton.

"We believe there's going to be a cure," said Lynn. "It's all about hope; we want to use our story to convince others that supporting the research is important. There are little children whose daily struggle with diabetes is heart-wrenching. Most people don't realize the extent to which type 1 diabetes robs children of many of the joys of childhood. It is a truly devastating disease that affects babies, children and young adults for the rest of their lives. If we can find a cure, so many little lives will be made so much better."

(Michael Robb is director of public relations in the University of Alberta's Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.) ■



Students discover Arctic trails

Augustana outdoor ed program goes far

By Zanne Cameron

How far is north? This winter eight Augustana Faculty students and two faculty members travelled to a remote homestead, north of Reliance NWT, in the Canadian Subarctic and found many answers to a seemingly simple question.

"Historically the Arctic is such a rich part of the country," said Morten Asfeldt, director of Augustana's signature outdoor education program. "I grew up in the north – it is misunderstood. We hardly know it, yet it is a central part of the Canadian identity."

Asfeldt is no stranger to its terrain, having taken students on annual summer excursions to remote northern rivers for more than 10 years.

Asfeldt also conscripted Scandinavian Studies professor and polar literature specialist Ingrid Urberg. "I've never done something like this before," said Urberg, who jumped at the opportunity.

"I can't imagine life without the north – it's in my blood."

Asfeldt and Urberg developed first-term curriculum that dealt with their specializations – Asfeldt in outdoor camping and survival, and Urberg in the study of personal narratives of the North. The trip included student study of, reflections and writing of the North, as an integral part of the experience.

And by all accounts the experience was rewarding.

"Morten brings so much to the table," said Clay Peck, a student who embarked on what turned out to be the adventure of a lifetime. "He has this huge compassion for the wilderness."

Peck, a second year environmental science student at Augustana Faculty, learned much from his experience. "I had a huge base of knowledge coming into the course but Morten opened my eyes to so much more."

Asfeldt's teaching emphasis builds on ethics, leadership, team dynamics and relationships. Relationships are at the crux of what he tries to teach, relationships that go beyond normal definitions of the interpersonal and that include the landscape and the self.

"Morten's passion sticks with you," said Denise Baranski, a second-year outdoor education student. "I never ever imagined going that far north and living off the land. This was an adventure that I never thought I could have."

Baranski and Peck's group dog sledded for six days to just beyond the tree line. The two wore 25 lbs of clothes to combat temperatures that could go beyond -40 C, chopped wood, carried water, and learned much about themselves and about reaching goals with a team.

Peck and Baranski learned to respect the animals that packed them, their supplies and their teammates through over 160 km of hills, frozen lakes and rivers of the unrelenting landscape.

The trek was held at the home of Dave Oleson who lives with his wife Kristen, and daughters, Annika and Liv, at the mouth of the Hoarfrost River on the east arm of Great Slave Lake. Oleson is a pilot, and he and Kristen are veteran Iditarod dog-sled racers.

Dave Oleson, who acted as guide had confidence enough in the students to take a route he had never taken before. "It was amazing to share that experience with him. When we got there we were so excited, we wanted to keep going," said Baranski. After this trip, both Baranski and Peck plan to take the Augustana summer canoe excursion to the Arctic.

"It's unnerving – eerie to be so alone and isolated," remarks Peck. "But it's also so peaceful. There's so much serenity." ■



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Morten Asfeldt, above left, organized a trip to the Northwest Territories as part of the Augustana Faculty's Outdoor Education program. Students learned about survival techniques as well as getting a sense of Northern culture and taking in breathtaking scenery.

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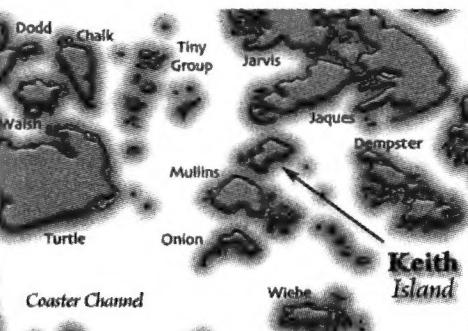
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Kari Inedig photo on a Batstar Trip

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talks & events

Submit talks and events to Lorraine Neumayer by 3 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication. **Folio Talks and Events** listings will no longer accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm>. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.event.ualberta.ca.

UNTIL SEP 01 2005

Marginal Notes: an exhibition of bookworks concerning social issues Mon, May 3, 2004 - Thu, September 1, 2005 Bruce Peel Special Collections Library, Rutherford South

APR 16 - SEPT 16 2005

REWIND: An Exhibition on Windsor Park Community REWIND focuses on Windsor Park, the community to the west of the University. With a focus on material culture from an historical and social perspective, the exhibition explores the neighbourhood's architectural diversity through a highly developed visual element, accompanied by various stories and captions on the life and vibrancy of the community and its members. **GRAND OPENING:** 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Human Ecology Gallery, main floor Human Ecology Building 116 St & 89 Ave.

APRIL 18, 2005

Nutrition and metabolism research seminars Dr. Aminah Jatoi, Associate Professor, Division of Medical Oncology, Mayo Clinic Rochester, Minnesota will be giving a seminar on at 10:30am in Classroom F (2J40.02) WMC entitled: Appetite stimulation and nutritional support in advanced cancer. 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

The Space of Arts A panel discussion on the future development, places and spaces for the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences on the University campus. What kind of campus should we be building? How will the campus fit into the community? We would welcome your participation. 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Humanities Building, Lecture Theatre 1.

Academic Women's Association Annual Banquet & AGM You are invited to attend the annual AWA Banquet & AGM. AWA Members \$25; Student Members \$20; Non-members \$30. Send cheque payable to the Academic Women's Association to Marg Wilson, AWA Treasurer, 207 CAB. 5:30 p.m. Papaschase Room, Faculty Club.

Composers Concert Composers Concert Featuring recent works of U of A Student Composers 8:00 p.m. Studio 27 Fine Arts Building.

APR 19 2005

Shaobo Xie, University of Calgary Shaobo Xie is an Associate Professor in the English Department at the University of Calgary. His publications include Dialogues in Cultural Studies: Interviews with Contemporary Critics (U. Calgary Press 2002), Cultural Politics of Resistance (The Chinese Social Sciences Press, 1999), and more than a dozen articles about critical theory, post-colonial theory, and cultural studies in the wake of globalization. He has translated the work of Frederic Jameson and Edward Said into Chinese and has published nine poems. He is working on two books: one on Frederic Jameson and the other a co-authored collection about globalization and indigenous culture. 12:00 p.m. HC 4-29

Making Space for the Imagination: Enhancing reflection, teaching and research Dr Helen Burchell is Associate Head of School (Professional) in the School of Education at the University of Hertfordshire, and a University Fellow in Learning and Teaching. She has many years experience in leading courses on practice-based research for teachers and lecturers, and is leader of the School's new EdD programme. Her major research interest is in how self study and action research support a scholarship of teaching. 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. 633 Education South.

Dramaturgy or the Art of Disappearing Join us for a Round Table discussion on Production Dramaturgy with special guests Jonathan Christensen (Catalyst Theatre), MFA Directing candidate Pat Darbasie, University of Alberta Professor Emeritus James DeFelice, Bradley Moss (Theatre Network), Ottillie Parfitt (Northern Light Theatre & NextFest), Trevor Schmidt (Northern Light Theatre) and the graduate students of Drama 617. 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. 3rd floor lounge Fine Arts Building.

APR 20 2005

PHS Grand Rounds Climate Change Month - "The Great Warming" - a 2004 three-part documentary that explores the underlying science and evidence of climate change. Dr Colin Soskolne will co-ordinate the series produced by Swiss Re, one of the world's leading re-insurers and the world's largest life and health re-insurer. Episode 3 - "Our Children's Planet" 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building.

APR 21 2005

Jones Memorial Lecture in Deafness - Outcomes of Auditory-Verbal Therapy: A

Review of the Evidence and a Call for Action Dr. Alice Eriks-Brophy, Assistant Professor, Graduate Department, Speech-Language Pathology of University, University of Toronto will discuss current standards of evidence-based practice, summarize the evidence that currently exists in support of auditory-verbal therapy (AVT), and will conclude with a discussion of the types of evidence that are still needed to overcome the limitations of previous research examining outcomes of AVT. 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. 2-115 Education North.

THE CINEMA OF CENTRAL EUROPE A day of lectures by international scholars on the topic of the Central European Cinema. 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 326 SENATE CHAMBER - ARTS BUILDING.

Truth in Virtue of Meaning Professor Gillian Russell Killam Fellow Department of Philosophy University of Alberta 3:30 p.m. Humanities Centre 4-29.

'Till Death Do us Part?' Research on What Family Means to Lesbian-Led Families with Children in Alberta Inside/OUT Speakers' series profiling lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, and queer (LGBTQ) related work and research at the University of Alberta. Speaker: Deborah Foster, Doctoral Student, Department of Human Ecology, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics Lesbian-led families that have conceived children together are relatively new phenomena in Edmonton. Since the 1980s, the number of out lesbian-led families has grown exponentially. To date lesbians and lesbian-led families have been virtually ignored in the academic literature. This presentation highlights the preliminary results of my doctoral research on lesbian couples who have conceived a child together, and whose child is now of school age. Inside/OUT is a new campus-based organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, queer (LGBTQ) and allied faculty, graduate student, academic, and support staff of the University of Alberta. Inside/OUT is designed to provide a safe and confidential space on the university campus for LGBTQ persons and their allies to network, socialize, and have fun in a supportive and welcoming environment. For more information or to obtain presentation abstracts, please contact Kristopher Wells at kwells@ualberta.ca or Marjorie Wonham at mwonham@ualberta.ca After the presentation, please join us at the Second Cup (near Earl's on Campus) to continue to network and socialize. 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 7-152 Education North Education Centre.

The Canadian Society for Civil Engineering "Assessment of Alberta's Drinking Water System" speaker: Garry Drachenberg, Associated Engineering Joint meeting with WCWEA The Canadian Society for Civil Engineering - Edmonton Section Annual General Meeting will be held prior to the lecture. 5:30 p.m. University of Alberta Faculty Club.

Doctor of Music Lecture Recital Doctor of Music Lecture Recital Ayako Tsuruta, piano 7:00 p.m. Studio 27 Fine Arts Building.

Student Voice Recitals Students from the studios of Michelle Kennedy and Joy-Anne Murphy present student jury recitals. There is no charge for admission. 7:30 p.m. Augustana Faculty, University Chapel, 4901 - 46 Ave., Camrose, AB.

APR 22 2005

Rural Economy Seminar Dr. Jurgen Meyerhoff, Research Economist, Institute for Landscape Architecture and Environmental Management, Technische Universität, Berlin will present the seminar titled: "Forest Conversion: Ecological and Socio-Economic Assessment of Biodiversity." 3:00 p.m. 550 General Services Building.

Department of Biological Sciences Jeb Gauder, Genes and Development Research Group, University of Calgary is presenting a seminar on "From Computer to Worm: Identifying and characterizing components of the Pharynx gene network in C. elegans at 3:30 p.m. in Room M-149 Biological Sciences Building. 3:30 p.m. M-149, Biological Sciences Building.

Mathematical Notation and Philosophical Analysis Professor Jamie Tappenden Department of Philosophy University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 3:30 p.m. Humanities Centre 4-29.

Nurses in Bathing Suits, a Night at the Water Park The third-year nursing grad committee invites all students and their friends to join us at the water park to celebrate the end of the school year. Tickets are only \$10 a person. This event is a great way to celebrate the end of classes without drinking. 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. West Edmonton Mall Water Park.

Alumni Memorial Service The University of Alberta Alumni Association is holding a special memorial service to pay tribute to our alumni who passed away in 2004. This will be a Christian service of worship. The Alumni Association would like to thank the University of Alberta Chaplains' Association and the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus for their involvement in this service. 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Convocation Hall - in the Old Arts Building.

APR 26 2005

Guest Speaker Dr. Joel Goodman, Professor Department of Pharmacology UT Southwestern Medical Centre Dallas, Texas Title of Talk: Lipid bodies and peroxisomes: Secret intimacies 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. 5-10 Medical Sciences Building.

PhD Thesis Defence Department of Cell Biology PhD Thesis Defence Chris Tam Title of Talk: Early to Late Events in Peroxisome Biogenesis 11:00 - 12:00 noon 5-10 Medical Sciences Building (Seminar/Conference Room).

APR 27 2005

PHS Grand Rounds Climate Change Month - "The Great Warming" - a 2004 three-part documentary that explores the underlying science and evidence of climate change. "Panel Discussion on the Great Warming led by Dr Colin Soskolne" Panelists include: Dr Joseph A Doucet and Dr Karen McDonald. 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building.

APR 28 2005

Annual Research Day 2005 9 am - Guest Speaker from Health Services Research - Mentorship and Evolution: Dr Andreas Laupacis, President and CEO, Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences; Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto 9:45 am Poster Viewing 10:15 am Student Oral Presentations 12:15 pm Poster Viewing 1:30 pm PHS Students' Association, Dr Tom Marrie, Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry 1:45 pm Faculty and Postdoctoral Oral Presentations 3:30 pm Faculty and Postdoctoral Oral Presentations 4:30 pm Closing Remarks 8:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Bernard Snell Hall.

Doctor of Music Lecture Recital Doctor of Music Lecture Recital Bianca Baciu, piano 6:30 p.m. Studio 27 Fine Arts Building.

APR 30 2005

Concert #4 of the package: Augustana Choir and Encore. Augustana Choir and encore, directed by Dr. Ardelle Ries with Dr. Roger Admiral, piano, present their Alberta 2005 Spring Tour program. The concert will feature traditional sacred and secular works by Byrd, Jannequin, Henry VIII, Carissimi, Stenhammar, Bartók, and others, as well as celebrate Alberta composers Violet Archer, Gerhard Krapf, John Estacio, Howard Bashaw and Milton Schlosser. 8:00PM Augustana Faculty, University Chapel, 4901 - 46 Ave., Camrose, AB.

MAY 1 2005

Arts Alumni Spring Tea Please join fellow Arts alumnus Dr. Raj Pannu, '73 PhD, MLA Edmonton-Strathcona for the 2nd Annual Arts Alumni Spring Tea. Meet Dean of Arts, Dr. Daniel Woolf, and

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The reception will take place on Friday, April 22nd from 3:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Telus Centre. The program will begin at 4:00 p.m. For more information, and to RSVP, please contact Bev Kulak at bev.kulak@ualberta.ca or 492-1413 by April 20th.

Ellen has asked that if members of the campus community would like to make a donation in her name, an existing student scholarship that is close to her heart is the Priscilla Hammond Endowment in English.

Donations may be made through:

Pamela Jenkins, Advancement Services,
6th Floor, General Services Building
pamela.jenkins@ualberta.ca, 492-9585

Photo: Ellen Schoeck (centre) with husband Ivan Ivankovich and daughter Becky Solomon

Award Winners for 2004/2005

Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching

Dr. Alkiviathes Meldrum Department of Physics

Dr. Alkiviathes Meldrum received his B.S. from Concordia University in 1992 and his Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico in 1997. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, Al joined the Physics Department in 2000, one of the group of young, energetic faculty who revitalized our teaching and research over the last few years.

Students immediately recognized Al's teaching skills and dedication by awarding him the "Students' Union Recognizing Talented Teaching Award" in 2001. His first research award was not far behind - he was a recipient of a 2002 PetroCanada Young Innovator Award.

To say that Dr. Meldrum is an excellent teacher is an understatement. He has taught courses at introductory, senior and graduate levels but it is Phys 114, a course aimed at non-science and arts students, which gained him recognition across the campus. Every year the demand for this course far exceeds the capacity. Al designed the course and by now has dispensed with a textbook. Instead, he has created a course pack, which allows him to include the most current and exciting topics in physics. In this course Al has gained the admiration of even the most reluctant of students.

Dr. Meldrum's achievements as a teacher go well beyond the classroom. He is a mentor to an impressive group of students, ranging from graduate students to junior undergraduates who gained their first research experience under his guidance. Some of his students were captured from the Faculty of Engineering after their Bachelor degree; others admit that they decided to become physicists only after having Dr. Meldrum as their first year instructor.

It is wonderful to see an extraordinary teacher recognized so early in his career. We look forward to another 30 years of excellent teaching from Al.

Dr. Gerda deVries Department of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences

Dr. Gerda deVries is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences. She obtained her PhD from the University of British Columbia in 1995. Prior to coming to Alberta in 1998, Gerda was a postdoctoral research fellow at the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland from 1995-98.

Although a relatively junior faculty member, Gerda has already established herself as a truly outstanding instructor at all levels, from first-term Engineering mathematics to graduate topics courses.

She has earned the students' respect and affection by a combination of tremendous teaching ability, knowledge, enthusiasm, and respect for the students and encouragement of their efforts. The students are even more impressed by the care she shows for their learning. There is endless testimony about her enthusiasm, her availability after class to help the students with their difficulties, the extra problems and notes she prepares and posts on her web site, the exam review sessions she holds, the patient and respectful way in which she deals with all students, and even the effort she makes to learn their names. So high is Gerda's reputation for excellent teaching, that in one of her classes, the number of teaching evaluations returned far exceeded the number of students officially registered in the course!

Gerda is also a wonderful ambassador of mathematics. Her outreach activities have included Mathematical Biology Workshops for the Pacific Institute of Mathematical Sciences, supervision of several undergraduate summer students, being role model/lab instructor at events organized by WISEST and many classroom presentations at elementary schools.

Our department is delighted to have one of the best young mathematics teachers in the country and one in whose accomplishments we can take pride for a long time to come.

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Nominate a worthy volunteer for the
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WHO: Award of Distinction nominees exemplify the spirit of innovation, generosity and commitment upon which the University of Alberta was founded. We seek individuals or groups who have made exceptional contributions to link the University of Alberta with the local, provincial, national and/or international community. Awards of Distinction are given to alumni and non-alumni in three categories: Academic, Non-Academic and Community.

WHAT: Nominees are recognized for volunteer activities which promote goodwill between the University and the broader community and enhance the University's reputation for excellence. Established in 1997 by the Board of Governors to acknowledge the many extraordinary people who touch the University, Award of Distinction recipients are now enshrined on the University's Roll of Honour at the Timms Centre for the Arts. **WHY:** By nominating someone, you demonstrate your appreciation for their efforts, highlight the innovative individuals in your department or community and provide inspirational role models for the University's next generation of leaders. **HOW:** The complete nomination form with criteria and eligibility information is available online at www.ualberta.ca/governors/distinction.htm or from the office of the Board of Governors at 492-4951.



Nomination Deadline is **May 9, 2005**

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WESTEND FOUR LEVEL SPLIT, 3 + 1 bedrooms, 1,400 Sq Ft. Double garage, quiet neighbourhood, close to schools. No pets, non-smokers. 15 minutes to U of A. July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006. \$1,400/month, negotiable + utilities. (780) 435-9468 (evenings), (780) 492-3558 (days).

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longer, lindseymulkins@yahoo.com, 463-2248.

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MCKERNAN BUNGALOW. Two bedroom with two bedrooms in basement. Two full baths, large double garage, park-like yard. Large deck close to U of A and hospitals. To view call Elaine 970-4011. RE/MAX.

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MISCELLANEOUS

ALBERTA LIFE SCIENCES PLATFORM DIRECTOR POSITION - The Alberta Science and Research Authority (ASRA) is a provincially-appointed board of members from the Alberta business and research communities. The mission of ASRA is to enhance the contributions of science and research to the sustainable prosperity and quality of life of all Albertans. Over the next five years, ASRA will actively develop several Life Sciences initiatives, one of which will be the Alberta Life Sciences Platform. This initiative represents a collaboration amongst government/ASRA, the universities, and other stakeholders that will develop systems biology platforms in the areas of genomics, proteomics, bioinformatics and nanobiotechnology. These platforms will provide advanced, efficient, high-throughput, and cost-effective research resources that will support Life Sciences research and innovation in Alberta. The Alberta Life Sciences Platform will advance Alberta's leading edge in life sciences technology by: strategic development of key infrastructure, recruiting and retaining highly qualified personnel, leveraging funding from multiple sources, and supporting the creation of commercially viable technologies and products.

The Alberta Life Sciences Platform is seeking a full-time Director who will:

- engage stakeholders to create a plan for improved development and performance of the Alberta Life Sciences Platform
- work with stakeholders to identify systems biology infrastructure and operation needs
- coordinate the Alberta Life Sciences Platform with other ASRA Life Sciences alliance strategies
- manage the administrative and fiscal operations of the Alberta Life Sciences Platform
- provide leadership and direction to Alberta Life Sciences Platform staff
- work with sponsors to generate external research funding for Alberta Life Sciences Platform projects
- aid in technology transfer originating from Alberta Life Sciences Platform projects
- promote the Alberta Life Sciences Platform to stakeholders, funding agencies, and media interests

This is an administrative professional position for a one-year term with the possibility of renewal. Salary is dependent on experience. The starting date is negotiable, depending on availability. The successful candidate can be based in Calgary or Edmonton but a significant amount of travel is anticipated.

The ideal candidate should possess a university education in an area relevant to Life Sciences, experience in university administration, have an understanding of government relations, fund development, technology transfer, and an effective ability to develop new initiatives.

Inquiries, written nominations for the position, and applications supported by curriculum vitae, the names of three referees and a one page summary highlighting aspects of your expertise that make you competitive for this position should be submitted before the application deadline of April 22, 2005 to:

Norman C.W. Wong
Alberta Life Sciences Platform
c/o University of Calgary
2500 University Drive NW
Administration Building Room 100
Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4

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DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

INSTITUTE FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES ALBERTA

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

The Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences Alberta (IFASA) invites applications for the position of director of operations and communications

Reporting to the chief executive officer of IFASA the incumbent is a member of the Institute's administrative executive team. IFASA's vision is to be an internationally recognized agriculture and agri-food research and development institute that adds value to the economic, social and environmental well being of Alberta. The executive team endeavors to align components of research, technology transfer, commercialization and education with the goals and investment priorities of the Agriculture Strategic Research and Innovation Frameworks in Alberta. The incumbent provides support to the CEO and the team by focusing on the operation and communication activities undertaken by IFASA. The incumbent assists with the development of strategic plans, annual reports and other important communication vehicles. The incumbent facilitates communication between IFASA, the network of advisory committees and other stakeholders. The incumbent assists the other team members by keeping them informed about important events as they are identified in the information collection phases of the operation.

The successful candidate will have:

- An M.Sc. in a related agricultural research discipline.
- Superior and demonstrated advanced writing

and editing skills and the ability to develop and facilitate visionary and strategic communication plans.

- Experience in supporting senior executives and providing strategic advice.
- Demonstrated effective oral communications skills in conveying budgets and strategic plans
- An understanding of the economic and environmental phenomena that impact agriculturally orientated activities and plans.
- Ability to work independently and interdependently in support of a strategic team that is formulating policy and creating precedent setting organizational partnerships.
- The ability to provide leadership to teams.
- Comprehensive knowledge and background in management of human and financial resources, and strategic planning.
- Ability to make decisions independently and under tight deadlines in a multi-faceted and decentralized environment.
- Ability to facilitate cooperation between diverse groups of individuals.
- Extensive knowledge of the policies, procedures and regulations of the University of Alberta.

This is a full-time continuing Administrative Professional Officer position with a salary range of \$44,085 to 69,803 per annum.

Applications, including a resume and the names of three references, should be sent by April 22, 2005 to:

Linda Prud'homme, Assistant Dean (Linda.
Prud'homme@ualberta.ca)
Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home
Economics

notices

Please send notices attention Folio, 6th floor General Services Building, University of Alberta, T6G 2H1 or e-mail public.affairs@ualberta.ca. Notices should be received by 3 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FUND

The "International Partnership Fund" (IPF) was established to support University of Alberta faculty and staff participating in exchange activities with the university's many partner institutions around the world. The fund provides financial support to faculty and staff engaged in the development and/or implementation of activities that contribute to sustainable and reciprocal relations with international academic partners. Awards may be used for travel by either the U of A staff/faculty member to visit an international partner, or for the faculty or unit to support a visitor from the partner. The fund favors activities that develop projects bringing an international focus to the academic, research and teaching mandate, and contribute to the interna-

tionalization objectives of the faculty.

Support from the IPF will ideally complement multiple funding sources. Matching support from the individual and/or the department/faculty and partner institution is required.

Note: The IPF only applies to those institutions with which the U of A has a formal agreement.

For guidelines, application forms and list of eligible partners, please contact:

University of Alberta International
1204 College Plaza, Tel: 492-5840/e-mail:
cecilia.martinez@ualberta.ca or visit our website:
www.international.ualberta.ca

Application deadline: Friday, May 20th, 2005

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Designing Woman



Photos: Shawn Benbow

Lisa Hancharek's thesis breathes life into the Restoration

By Shawn Benbow

It took more than 127 metres of fabric, 296 buttons, 130 metres of lace trim and 16 weeks of design and construction to put together Lisa Hancharek's costumes for *The Beaux' Stratagem*, the latest Studio Theatre production.

The Beaux' Stratagem is the culmination of Hancharek's MFA thesis production, in which she has designed the set, lights, and 25 period costumes. Because of the nature of the production and the wide breadth of costumes needed, she couldn't pull costumes from the Timms Centre's wardrobe storage — they didn't exist.

"What's crucial in this play is that the

characters are not all from the same class system," she said. "There's everything from the lowest-class servant to the highest lord, and everything in between. So, you have to look at what the servants wore, what the peddlars wore, what the business people wore, what the priests wore."

Hancharek started a mere 16 weeks ago by reading the play three times and then conducting extensive research on the Restoration period.

"It was absolutely a history lesson for me," she said. After getting a sense of the period, she had to "look into the characters and try and think, 'if this person was liv-

ing today, what style would they choose? Where would they shop?'"

From this initial concept stage, and with input from the director and production team, Hancharek came up with the final designs.

Working with funding from a capital grant used to make new costumes, Hancharek worked with the intent of having the costumes around for years to come.

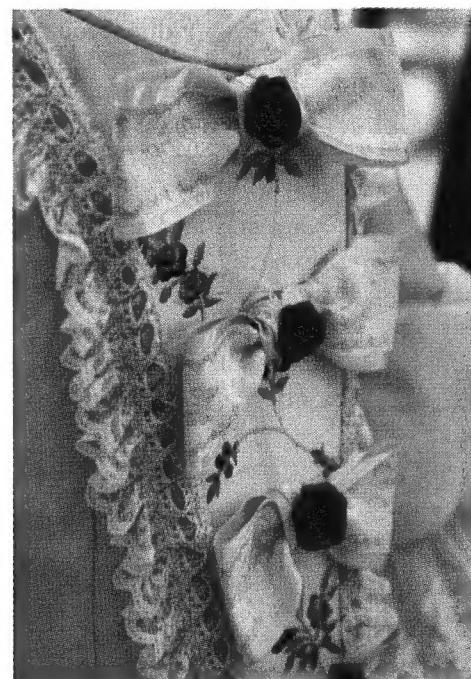
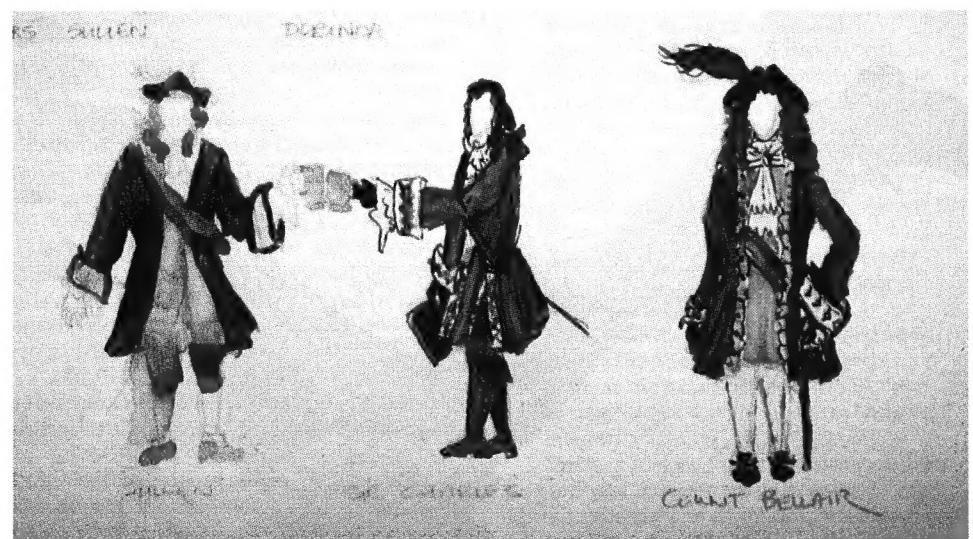
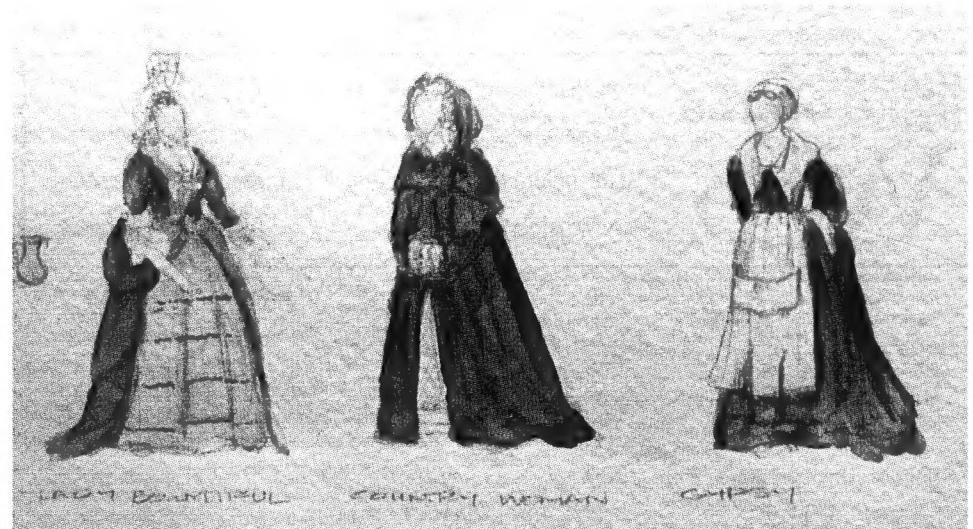
She chose high quality fabric for the costumes so they'll last at least 10 to 15 years and will be available to other theatre companies. "Theatres are going to reap the benefits of these costumes for years to

come," she said.

And they'll know the costume production was a labour of love.

"I'd come in every day and something new would be made, and I'd see something that used to be a pile of material and now it's a nice dress or a frock coat," she said of her experience working with the Drama Department's wardrobe team. However, she added, the best part was seeing her designs during the play's first dress rehearsal.

"When everyone was out on stage and I saw all my work there on display, it was quite satisfying." ■



MFA candidate Lisa Hancharek's task in designing costumes for *The Beaux' Stratagem* started out with research of the historical period and study of the play itself before she went to the drawing board. Besides designing 25 costumes for the Studio Theatre production, Hancharek also took on set and lighting design duties.

folio back page